

# Around the Schools

## Welcome Class of 2013



Please join us in welcoming this year's new class of teachers and administrators. Pictured left to right: Technology Director Pete Zagray, Julie Wagner (Holly Lane ESL), Brooke Romp (Hilliard, 1st grade), Jessica Karam (WHS Spanish), Kate Vitek (Hilliard/Holly Lane/LBMS gifted intervention specialist), Samantha Smith (Hilliard/Parkside music), Allison Lawrence (Bassett, French), Michael Berlekamp (WHS math), Sam Kitzler (WHS music), Laura Taucher (Parkside, Spanish/French), Ned Lauver (WHS assistant principal), Kelly Smith (Parkside/LBMS instrumental music), Dave Schindler (WHS assistant principal), Jennifer Cotterill (Bassett intervention specialist), Erin Pontikos (WHS counselor), Leia Mason (WHS art) and Brooke Benko (Parkside Spanish/French).

### Board of Education places 5.4-mill levy on November ballot

At its July 30 meeting, the Westlake Board of Education approved placing a 5.4-mill operating levy on the Nov. 5 ballot. In May, a 5.9-mill levy failed by just 44 votes. After the narrow defeat the district opted not to seek an August ballot, but made about \$1 million in cuts and sought community feedback about how best to proceed.

The district cut \$5 million over the past three years - or 10 percent of its budget. After community input, the November levy request was reduced to 5.4 mills and would be the first operating levy in seven years. The levy will allow current programming to remain. Even with this levy, Westlake will remain in the bottom 25% of school taxes in Cuyahoga County and will ensure great schools for a great community.



If the levy fails in November, Superintendent Dr. Daniel J. Keenan Jr. indicated he will recommend another \$2.2 million in cuts, which may include eliminating 30-plus teaching positions and seven to 10 non-teaching positions; imposing additional transportation cuts; eliminating

access to school buildings after hours; either significantly increasing tuition for all-day kindergarten or eliminating all-day kindergarten; reducing athletics, music and arts offerings or imposing significant pay-to-participate costs; cutting AP offerings; and delaying or eliminating International Baccalaureate programs.

# **WHS dedication/ribbon cutting Sept. 21**

Everyone is invited to a dedication/ribbon cutting for the new WHS on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 10am, followed by an open house to 1pm.

## **Westlake earns 20th financial reporting award**



Westlake City Schools CFO/Treasurer Mark C. Pepera and his staff earned the district its 20th consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This national award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. The award for the district's comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) represents a significant accomplishment by a government agency and its management. The CAFR was judged to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure." It helps to demonstrate to the community the continued commitment of full financial disclosure and striving toward the mission of excellence.

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## **WHS an IB candidate school for Diploma Programme**

Westlake High School is now recognized as an IB candidate school for the Diploma Programme, allowing it to pursue authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy - a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that Westlake believes is important for our students. WHS joins the district's four elementary schools, which are on track to be named IB World Schools this fall.

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## **Larry Matus earns Presidential Volunteer Service Award**



Central Printing Operator Larry Matus received the President's Volunteer Service Award for his service in 2012. Matus was one of our members of the Westlake Auxiliary Police service to receive a lifetime award for years of dedicated service, directing traffic, assisting in weather-related emergencies and patrolling city facilities. Matus received a certificate from the Corporation for National and Community Service, a letter from the White House and a Lifetime lapel pin. He was recognized at a ceremony in May.